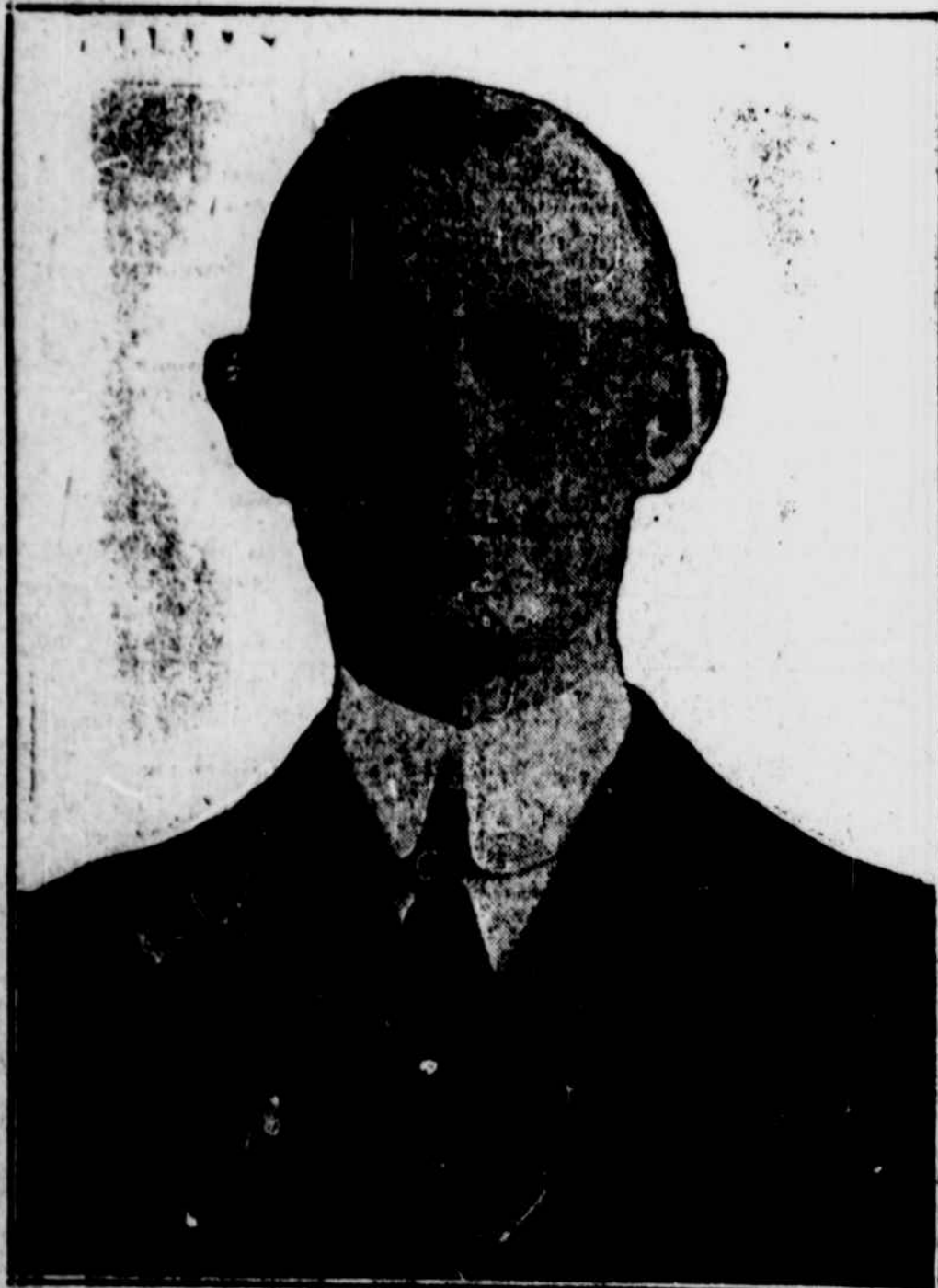


W. M. HAMER

The Man Who Evolved and Put Into Practice the Plan of the Cotton Mills Buying Direct From the Planter



MR. W. M. HAMER.

Several years ago an enterprising merchant-farmer in a small Eastern Carolina town slipped away to Liverpool and had a quiet conference with the president of a large cotton manufacturing establishment. When the merchant-farmer returned home he exhibited to his fellow merchants and farmers a contract, whereby he was to purchase cotton on his local market, ship it to the nearest compress and then bill it direct to the European manufacturer. It was the first time in the history of the cotton industry that a European manufacturer and a local cotton buyer had been brought together. It was the first attempt that had ever been made to eliminate the middle-men in the handling of the world's greatest crop. In that contract the European manufacturers and the American producer had been brought closer together than ever before in the history of the cotton industry. Able lawyers who passed upon the provisions of the contract said that it granted an equal measure of protection to both buyer and seller. Financiers who looked it over said it was the beginning of a new and better era in the handling of the cotton crop, in that it brought the Southern cotton field to the threshold of the European spinning room. But the Fates so willed it that before the plan could be put into practical operation death stillied the heart and hand of this far-seeing merchant and farmer, and that contract which no doubt would have meant so much to Southern cotton planters became an inactive asset of a litigated estate.

But the germ of the idea did not die with this enterprising merchant-farmer; it found lodgment in the fertile brain of a young cotton manufacturer of the Pee Dee section. "If the European manufacturer sees an advantage in getting closer to the producer why not get closer to him myself?" reasoned this young manufacturer. "Why not buy my cotton direct instead of through the broker, and divide the commission with the farmer?" Thereupon he went upon the local cotton market in competition with buyers for brokers and exporters, and the price of cotton advanced nearly fifty points the first day on the strength of his buying. He continued the fight throughout the season, bought every bale of cotton his mills needed first hand from the farmer and not only saved money for himself, but added thousands of dollars to the wealth of the farmers of his native county. That man was W. M. Hamer, for years president of the Dillon, Hamer and Maple Cotton Mills, and at present a candidate for lieutenant-governor of South Carolina. Other mills over the state caught his idea and that was the beginning of the movement that resulted in the elimination of the middleman and the

establishment of a closer relationship between the manufacturer and the farmer.

Mr. Hamer is a modest man and it is extremely difficult to get him to speak of any of his successes or achievements in life. It was with reluctance that he consented to the use of his name in connection with this article, but the only way the people can judge of a man's fitness for public office is by knowing what he has accomplished as a private citizen, and it is nothing but fair to the people of South Carolina and a matter of simple justice to Mr. Hamer himself for these facts to be given the widest publicity.

Mr. Hamer was born on the farm and is the son of a farmer. He is one of four sons, all of whom are prominent farmers of the Pee Dee country. His father before him was a successful farmer, a wealthy man for his day and time, and could have reared his sons in ease and luxury, but being a man of sound, practical judgment he taught his boys the art of farming in the hard school of experience. After graduating from the South Carolina College Mr. Hamer went back to the farm where he combined his technical knowledge with practical experience, and made his lands produce abundantly. When still a young man his extraordinary business talent attracted the attention of men of capital and he was called from the farm to the management of a cotton mill. So great was his success as a mill man that it was only a short time before he began the erection of another mill, and later acquired the Hamer Cotton Mills, all three being consolidated under the name of the Dillon Mills.

Mr. Hamer is not a politician; he is a plain, practical business man who seeks public office because he believes he can be of some service to his fellowman. Having been raised on the farm and knowing how to sympathize with the tillers of the soil, he thinks the government should assist agriculture, the source of all wealth, as much as possible, while he strongly advocates an equitable distribution of taxes, "placing the burdens on those most able to bear them, and who enjoy most the benefits of government."

Mr. Hamer is endorsed in writing by every officer in Dillon and Marlboro counties.

By the farmers for services already rendered.

By the merchants of Dillon and Bennettsville for his progressive business methods.

By the bankers of both Marlboro and Dillon for his integrity and business ability.

By his former mill operatives for his kindness and friendship.

By many others for his good citizenship.

(Advertisement.)

BROWNING ASSAILS MANNING.

CALLS UPON HIM TO EXPLAIN HIS CONNECTION WITH L. M. GREEN.

Candidates at Walhalla for Most Part Make Same Statement of Their Views as on Other Stumps—Browning's Departure a Feature.

Walhalla, Aug. 18.—Lowndes J. Browning, candidate for governor, assailed Richard I. Manning in the meeting of candidates for State offices here today on his platforms for governor eight years ago and this year and asked him to explain why he has Col. Leon M. Green so constantly with him. He told of Mr. Green as factory inspector on the staff of the governor, and questioned the sincerity of Mr. Manning on law enforcement. He also took a fling at the press.

The audience of 700 citizens of Oconee county was undemonstrative and for the most part indifferent though attentive to the pleas of the many candidates. The administration candidates continued at their old lines of attack, largely on John G. Richards.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 o'clock by James M. Moss, county chairman, in the yard of the court house. The Rev. J. B. Umberger offered prayer.

Mendel L. Smith, candidate for governor, spoke of his work in the legislature and as speaker of the house. The first topic he touched was the Aiken plan of elimination, which he bitterly denounced. He asked that the voters cast their ballots as "sovereign men."

He told of the need of investigating the lime deposits in the State with the end in view of decreasing the cost of fertilizer. He was applauded for his stand against the injudicious use of the pardoning power.

Lowndes J. Browning then presented a number of "pertinent questions" for Mr. Manning to answer and said that the voters of South Carolina are entitled to a frank and candid answer. "There is nothing I enjoy more," said Mr. Browning, "than to puncture a gas bag or expose a hypocrite and I am going to do one or the other today. Soon you will hear, as at the other meetings we have heard, lawlessness denounced in the most vigorous terms. The candidate rears up on the toes of his hind legs and declares that no house burner, yeg-man, safecracker or rapist need apply to him for pardon. He does not say, however, that he will not, if governor, pardon a common thief."

"Eight years ago when the State dispensary had become a stench in the nostrils of the people, when only such men as John G. Richards and Mendel L. Smith still stood for its corrupt and corrupting influences, Richard I. Manning came forward to save it. Many believed then and some believe yet that he attempted to bolster his waning fortunes for the sake of the governorship. I did not then consider him so low as to sell himself for office. I attributed it to a never too strong mentality, but of course I may have been mistaken. At any rate, he was defeated that year for governor."

"Now he is a candidate again for the same high office and proclaiming most loudly for the enforcement of the law. Let us see, and to do so, we must go back a little. On page 216, senate journal of 1912, you will find a message from Gov. Blease transmitting to the general assembly the report of his special factory inspector, Col. Leon M. Green, of the governor's staff, and this report covers to page 240 of said journal. The governor congratulated himself that the year before he had vetoed the item of \$3,400 for two factory inspectors and had had this work done by Col. Leon M. Green at a cost of only \$1,000."

"Seeing a striking similarity between Col. Leon M. Green's report and the report of the commissioner of agriculture, commerce and industries, E. J. Watson, I compared the two and found them identical. I then sent J. Rutledge McGee to Mr. Watson's office, demanding the correspondence between Mr. Watson and Col. Leon M. Green on factory inspection. I got the originals of Col. Leon M. Green's letters and carbon copies of Mr. Watson's replies, and reading these letters to the house I proved that all the work Col. Leon M. Green had done was to copy about 22 pages of Mr. Watson's report, for which the State of South Carolina paid \$1,000."

"Col. Leon M. Green was then, and I think is now a member of Gov. Blease's staff. This exposure was in the papers on the front page in large headlines. Col. Leon M. Green was then dubbed 'Scissors.' Whether that non-de-plume still sticks, I do not know."

"Mr. Manning must have known all this. He knew the moral character of this Col. Leon M. Green and yet, as he is not in Mr. Manning's employ now? Yesterday I asked the clerk at the hotel in Anderson if Mr. Manning was stopping there. He replied: 'Yes, he is in No. 4.' I then asked if Col. Leon

M. Green were there, and he replied: 'Yes, but not registered. He is with Mr. Manning in No. 4. Do you wish to see him?' I did not. If Mr. Manning is so fearfully earnest in his desire to have the law enforced, why does he have Col. Leon M. Green so constantly with him? He must know his character. Does Col. Leon M. Green write Mr. Manning's speeches? He wields a rather facile pen; his mentality is above the average. Did Mr. Manning employ Col. Leon M. Green of his own volition? Or was he thrust upon him by Mr. Manning's capitalistic backers? Is Mr. Manning sincere in his denunciation of lawlessness or is he only bidding for votes? Is not Mr. Manning's connection with Col. Leon M. Green leave the impression that he is swinging to Blease's coat of arms with one hand and to the capitalists with the other? These are pertinent questions and the voters of South Carolina are entitled to a frank and candid answer.

"I am offering this to the press. Did it reflect on Lowndes J. Browning, John G. Clinkscales, Charles A. Smith or Mendel L. Smith, I feel sure it would be published but as it refers to one of the press and capitalistic pets, we will see."

John G. Clinkscales, applauded as he arose, launched immediately into his plea for a State-wide compulsory education, paying a tribute to Prof. W. H. Hand and W. K. Tate. He ridiculed those who said that the time was not ripe because of a lack of school facilities, maintaining that the children should be educated if there is nothing more than a brush pile for a shelter.

Robert A. Cooper said that the chief magistrate of the State had no court from which the citizen may appeal. He denied the inference that he was the candidate of any man or set of men and said that if elected no man could come to him and say that there is an obligation due.

John T. Duncan, after discussing the "system," said: "We had laid John Richards to rest, after the death of Mendel L. Smith but we dug up Richards, poured water in his face, pumped air into him, gave him smelling salts, but he looks like a dead man to me yet."

W. C. Irby, Jr., also took Mr. Richards to task for not disclosing his 1912 vote, saying: "If it is nobody's business where I have been why should any one know where I am going?" He went on to say in answer to challenge of Mr. Richards at Anderson that his record had shown his friendship for the governor.

"I am not in the race," said Richard I. Manning, "to malign or traduce anyone, so I will not notice any of the numerous flings that have been made at me." The speaker then discussed his life as a farmer and as president of a bank.

"Has it come to the condition," he asked, "when a man who holds a position of trust is held as a demagogue?" He then repeated his stand on the enforcement of law and local option compulsory education.

Mr. Manning excoriated the pardon record of Gov. Blease after presenting to the audience the issue of perpetuating the policies of the present administration with its lawlessness. He was applauded.

John B. Adger Mullally then spoke. "I am being twitted with not throwing down my commission," said John G. Richards, "while there are four or five other candidates who also hold various positions of trust."

"Mr. Richards has been seeking majorities all of his life," said Charles Carroll Simms as he told of his opponent's previous attitudes towards the liquor question, saying that Mr. Richards had been a dispensaryite and a prohibitionist and is now a local optionist. Mr. Simms further charged him with voting against the lien law. He called attention to the fact that friendships of his opponent, ridiculing the "recent conversion to Bleaseism."

"Are you going to turn down the old friends of Blease?" he asked.

Charles A. Smith said that he asked promotion as a plain business man. He called attention to the fact that the governor is not the lawmaker and for that reason the platforms and promises of candidates are subject to the will of the legislature. He advocated economy in administration and said that there should be no discrimination in enforcing the laws.

NOT FOR BLEASE NOW.

Col. Green Explains He Has Broken Off Alliance.

Greenville, Aug. 18.—L. M. Green, Columbia correspondent for the Charlotte Observer, said after seeing Lowndes J. Browning's statement here tonight:

"Browning's statement today at Walhalla is but a disgruntled attack upon Mr. Manning, the leading gubernatorial candidate, through a misstatement of facts with regard to me. I emphatically deny insinuations contained therein."

"With regard to the factory inspection referred to, the whole matter was threshed out in the general assembly at the time, my statement as to the true situation was published and was accepted as an ending to the

CANDIDATES IN MANNING.

CLARENDON COUNTY CHAIRMAN MAINTAINS ORDER.

Jennings Bitterly Excoriates Mayor and Police Chief of Georgetown for Their Action—Pollock Replies to Appeal.

Manning, Aug. 19.—The campaign meeting here today was a striking contrast to that of two years ago, when the leaders of the two contending factions were both in effect howled down. In his introductory remarks this morning, S. Oliver O'Bryan, county chairman, announced: "It's our purpose to maintain order today; and we're not bluffing either." This positive declaration was effective in counteracting any possible purpose to duplicate the Georgetown performance of last Monday, when L. D. Jennings was not allowed to speak. Each of the four candidates got a respectful hearing, though L. D. Jennings and W. P. Pollock had numerous retorts thrust at them from angry administration partisans in the audience.

The distinct feature of the meeting was L. D. Jennings' bitter excoriation of W. H. Andrews, mayor of Georgetown, and the chief of police of that city. Both of these officials sat on the stage last Monday, speechless and inactive, while the most disorderly crowd of the entire campaign wrangled and jeered at Mr. Jennings, and while confusion and disorder ran rampant. This was characterized by Mr. Jennings as an illustration of the governor's boasted machine in operation. Mr. Andrews being a close personal and political friend of the governor. The Atlantic Coast Lumber corporation was denounced as the one corporation that had robbed more people in the State than any other "and that the Yankee officials vote the operatives as you would drive a herd of sheep into a pasture."

Another interesting phase of today's hustings was W. P. Pollock's reply to Louis Appelt, editor of the Manning Times, who has been criticising Mr. Pollock for his daily attacks on the foreign and unnaturalized element in Charleston, which compose a considerable political asset. This editor had suggested that Mr. Pollock, too, might possibly be a foreigner and could not present a clean sheet. "If 'My Dear Appelt' doesn't know that I'm a South Carolinian, and an American citizen to the manner born, that's his ignorance and not my fault," Mr. Pollock added.

Approximately 1,500 persons attended the meeting here today, which was held in the grove directly behind the court house. S. Oliver O'Bryan, county chairman, presided. The Rev. G. P. Watson, local Methodist minister, offered prayer.

PROTECT MUTUAL INTERESTS.

Great Britain and Japan United for Best Interests of Countries.

London, Aug. 17.—The British official news bureau issued the following statement tonight:

"Great Britain and Japan, having been in communication with each other, are of the opinion that it is necessary for each to take action to protect the general interests in the Far East contemplated in the Anglo-Japanese alliance, keeping especially in view the independence and integrity of China as provided for in that agreement."

"It is understood that Japan's action will not extend to the Pacific beyond the China seas except as may be necessary to protect Japanese shipping lines in the Pacific nor in Asiatic waters westward of the China sea, or in foreign territory except territory in German occupation on the continent of Asia."

SETTLEMENT CLOSE AT HAND.

Villa Says Peaceful Agreement With Carranza is Almost in Sight.

Chihuahua City, Aug. 19.—Gen. Villa announced here today that a peaceful settlement of differences between himself and Gen. Carranza soon will be in sight. He said the situation was much improved, but did not explain what the differences were.

Dr. Harms to Preach Sunday.

The many friends of Dr. J. Henry Harms of Newberry College at Newberry, S. C., will be glad to know that on Sunday they will be given the opportunity of hearing him in this city. Dr. Harms will preach at the Grace Baptist Church Sunday morning.

proposition. The use of the alleged incident for political effect by Browning at the time was halted.

"As to the insinuation that I am a Blease man, that I specifically deny. I am not a supporter of Gov. Blease for the United States senate and this is generally and publicly known."

"This eleventh hour attack on Mr. Manning will not hurt him with the people of South Carolina, I am sure."

BEST TO INVESTIGATE.

Foreign Land Companies Doing Business in This State.

Several foreign land companies have recently had agents in this State selling lands or stock in their companies without having complied with the laws of the State. All such companies are required to deposit a bond for \$10,000 or securities in that amount with the insurance department to guarantee the faithful performance of their contracts and to respond to any suits brought, against them in South Carolina. They are required to furnish the Insurance Commissioner with a satisfactory statement of condition, and the insurance commissioner is required to investigate such companies fully to determine whether or not they are worthy of confidence.

It has been brought to the attention of the Insurance Commissioner that several representatives of the K. C. S. & Frisco Emigration Company of Poteau, Oklahoma, have been in this State selling or offering for sale land belonging to this company. Likewise it has been brought to the attention of the Insurance Commissioner that a representative or representatives of the Southern Orchard Company of Knoxville, Tenn., have been in the State. This company is said to be offering for sale lands to be developed for fig orchards in Jasper county, S. C.

In each case the Insurance Commissioner has taken prompt action and has notified the companies that he will have their representatives arrested if they do not comply with the law, but it generally happens that the representatives get out of the State before the commissioner can arrest them or the companies comply with the law.

It will always be safe for citizens of the State before purchasing lands in any of these foreign companies to make inquiry of the Insurance Commissioner as to whether they have complied with the law or not.

JERRY II DEAD.

Handsome Coach Dog of Firemen Killed by Hose Wagon.

The members of the fire department had the misfortune yesterday to lose one of their pet coach dogs, when out practising on the hose wagon. The wagon wheel passed over the dog's head and Jerry II was no more. These two coach dogs have been kept at the reel house for some time, and have attracted quite a lot of attention. They were owned by Messrs. Herman Phelps and Ryan White, two of the fire laddies, who suffer a financial loss as well as regret at the loss of one of the mascots of the fire department.

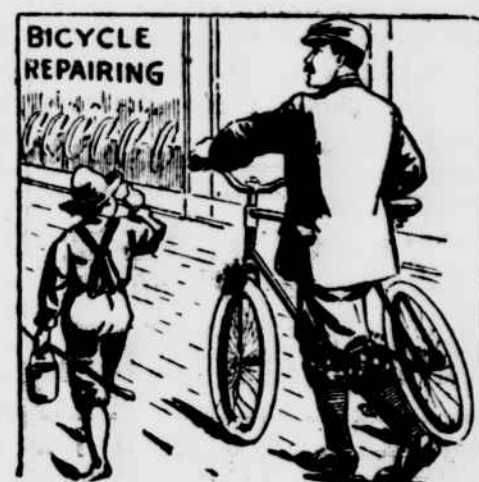
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